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JAPAN.

Reappearance of plague at Osaka.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, April 16, 1900.

SIR: Confirming my cablegram of this date, as follows: "Plague now present in Osaka. Will reimpose quarantine. Send prophylactic self and staff, directions," I have the honor to notify you more fully that, after some days of rumors of plague in rats and man at Osaka, of which I wrote under date of April 12, I received official information on the 14th that a fatal case had occurred in Osaka on the 8th instant, which, after investigation and thorough bacteriological examination was proved, on the 12th, to be of true plague; and that a second case was under suspicion. This afternoon I had a report direct from Osaka of a third instance of the disease, and deemed it my duty to cable you, the more as the climatic and other conditions favoring the development of epidemic pest are particularly propitious at present and in the locality of the outbreak.

There is almost positive certainty that this reappearance of the malady is due to the persistence of the germs through the later winter, and not to any fresh importation.

I have imposed the fifteen days' anteembarkation quarantine with isolation, post disinfection, upon all steerage passengers from or who have, even presumably, passed through the district of Osaka, both here and at Kobe, and have notified Dr. Fowler to immediately suspend all purchase of rags from any source, but to have expert and uninterested estimate made of those now in warehouse, which, in the absence of any case in Kobe, can, after usual disinfection, be shipped.

As regards the prophylactic, for which I telegraphed, I am unable to obtain any of the several serum or bouillon preparations here, except that of Yersin, of which experience both here and in Hongkong is far from favorable. In view of the fact that, of the physicians in attendance on the Osaka cases last winter, 3 died with all their families, and this in a very limited epidemic, I think it my duty to take all reasonable precautions for my small staff and myself.

Now that we have fairly good facilities for the disinfection, quarantine, and isolation of passengers, both at Kobe and here, I trust we may be able to carry out the precautions enjoined by the law with some reason to anticipate that they will be effectual.

I may add, as interesting us closely, that the Canadian Pacific Company will avail itself of the facilities afforded for the disinfection of passengers, but whether they will undertake to quarantine them as well is, as yet, undecided.

Should the outbreak prove widespread and virulent, I shall not hesitate to prohibit native travel until I can refer the matter to you by cable.

You will see by the tone of the foregoing that I am anxious as to the immediate future. I think, and in this my professional colleagues agree with me, that there is good cause for grave uneasiness.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Sanitary Inspector.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.